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Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

36 25X1

COUNTRY

TOPIC

Soviet Troops in Stendal and Osterburg

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1

1. On 21 December 1951, about 2,200 troops fell in in the barracks yard of the Taunentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse, Stendal (M 53/Y 85), forming an open square with the men standing in files of 10. About 15 officers stood in the middle of the yard which was decorated with gigantic pictures of Stalin and Lenin. On 26 January 1952, the barracks installation was occupied by about 2,500 troops, 60 percent of whom wore black-bordered red epaulets; 35 percent, red-bordered black epaulets; and 5 percent, black-bordered black epaulets. Several apartment houses opposite of Strasse-der-Demokratie were included in the billeting area. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets were seen drilling with carbines.

25X1

2. On 26 January 1952, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse quartered about 4,500 troops, about 50 percent of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia; 40 percent, black-bordered red epaulet; and about 10 percent, black-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal and engineer insignia. The troops were seen engaged in close-combat training and drill.

25X1

3. 1,000 to 1,500 troops returned to the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebertstrasse from Letzling Heath during one night in the last week of December 1951. Eight T-34 tanks moved into the barracks installation from the direction of Gardelegen at 11 p. m. on 26 December, and other tanks moved into the installation on the evenings of 29 and 30 December. On 26 January, the Albrecht-der-Baer-Kaserne and the adjacent

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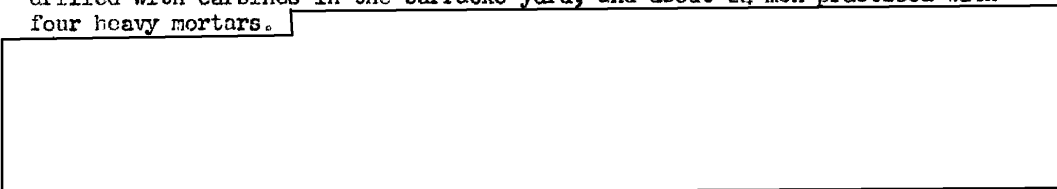
billets, the "Russenviertel", on either side of Fichtestrasse quartered a total of about 4,500 troops, about 70 percent of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets; 25 percent, black-bordered red epaulets; and 5 percent, black-bordered black epaulets or green epaulets.



4. On 25 January 1952, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse was occupied to capacity by about 2,200 troops. The sentries wore black-bordered red epaulets. All billets were fully lighted in the evening.

Eight men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and towing a 122-mm howitzer, drove from the training ground into the barracks installation on 5 January. About 350 troops organized in groups of 10 to 13 men, received intensive training with carbines and submachine guns in the barracks yard.

15 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and towing a 122-mm field howitzer, were observed on the drill field west of the Hindenburg Kaserne. On 24 January, an undetermined number of troops drilled with carbines in the barracks yard, and about 24 men practiced with four heavy mortars.



5. On 25 January, the Albrecht-der-Faer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebertstrasse quartered troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. The installation was not occupied to capacity. Eight T-34/85 tanks drove into the installation from the direction of Wahrenburg in the evening of 31 December 1951. A column of 12 T-34/85 tanks, 3 JS-1 and JS-2 tanks, 3 model BA-64 armored reconnaissance cars and 1 six-wheel armored personnel carrier was seen moving into the installation in the afternoon of 12 January 1952. The armored personnel carrier was seen in Stendal for the first time. On 21 January, 4 T-34/85 tanks, each mounting six men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, were seen leaving the installation toward the drill field west of the Hindenburg Kaserne. The tanks were closely followed by three platoons, each of about 30 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and were equipped with carbines and submachine guns. About 15 groups of 12 soldiers each were drilling with carbines and submachine guns in the barracks yard on 25 January. Twelve trucks were parked in front of a large garage. About 250 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, marched from the installation to the officers' billets in the former girls' high school.



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6. On 26 January, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse was occupied by about 800 troops, who wore red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets. According to rumors in Stendal, the buildings of the cooperatives on Rieckestrasse and Elisabethstrasse were to be reoccupied by Soviet troops and included into the billeting area of the Tauentzien Kaserne. About 12 officers and 200 troops, organized into platoons of 34 to 36 men each, marched

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- 3 -

from the Tauntzien Kaserne toward the Arnim drill field on 7 January. The troops wore black-bordered red epaulets and were equipped with rifles and submachine guns.

25X1

About 25 groups of 10 to 14 soldiers each drilled with rifles and submachine guns in the barracks yard on 22 January. Twenty-four soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets practiced with two 45-mm Model 42 AT guns, mounted on disk wheels, in the northern section of the installation. About 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were engaged in close-combat training at the newly constructed obstacle course in the southern section of the installation. A column which left the installation toward the Arnim Dam on 26 January

25X1

were black-bordered red epaulets and were equipped with carbines and submachine guns. About 120 unarmed troops drilled in the barracks yard in groups of 12 or 13 men. About noon, three platoons, each of about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying rifles, submachine guns and field targets; and a telephone section of 6 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and carrying signal equipment were seen marching toward the Tauntzien Kaserne from the direction of Borstel.

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7. On 31 December 1951, twelve caterpillar tractors, were seen moving along Breitenstrasse, Stendal, toward the Arnim Dam. Each tractor carried a crew of eight soldiers and towed a 100-mm AT gun. The column returned from Arnim Dam at dusk, proceeding toward Borstel airfield west of Osterburgerstrasse. On 16 January, about 200 soldiers received infantry drill, and about 30 soldiers practiced with four 100-mm AT guns, in the southern section of Borstel airfield; and 150 troops drilled with weapons, including four 100-mm AT guns, north of the ammunition dump. On 23 January, several officers and E1s wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were seen on the road to the airfield. About 50 to 60 soldiers were engaged in field training with carbines and submachine guns in a wood north of the ammunition dump. At the western edge of the airfield, 200 more troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, received field training and three groups of eight men each wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia surveyed and dug gun emplacements.

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8. On 7 January, 60 soldiers arrived in Stendal on a regular train from Rathenow. They wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia; were equipped with rifles and submachine guns, entrenching tools, gas masks, musette bags, shelter halves and steel helmets.

25X1

On 9, 12 and 14 January 1952, soldiers going on furlough were seen leaving Stendal toward Potsdam at a rate of 30 to 35 each day.

9. A railroad man stated that 10 rocket launchers were loaded at Stendal railroad station and dispatched toward Magdeburg on 8 January. (5)

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25X1

- 4 -

10. In the afternoon of 9 January, an officer briefing was held in the officers' billets, formerly a girls' high school. [REDACTED]

25X1

11. In the morning of 14 January 1952, a convoy of 40 to 50 trucks, each carrying 18 to 20 soldiers with field equipment, was seen moving along Breitenstrasse toward the Arnim training field. The trucks towed 8 x 76.2-mm model 42 field guns, 4 x 57-mm AT guns and 6 mortars. [REDACTED]

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12. On 20 January 1952, [REDACTED] no troops were stationed in Osterburg (I: 53/Y 77).

25X1

- (5) Probably rocket launchers belonging to the unidentified rocket launcher regiment of the IX Litz Rifle Corps.

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